

March 1, 2023
Members of the Education Committee
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

RE: **SB 1096**

Esteemed Members of the Education Committee,

I speak before you today in support of Senate Bill 1096.

My name is Michele Lindsay. I'm a community leader, a grandparent and a resident of Bridgeport CT. My beautiful granddaughters attended Achievement First Public Charter Schools.

They received an education that greatly helped not only their academics, but also their sense of pride as young black women in our State.

We need to clear the way for more amazing public schools to be opened to serve communities like mine.

Seeing the difference I have witnessed in our charter school when it came to my granddaughters, one of them due to an unexpected transition ended up in a regular school- she's suspended numerous times with a mental health issue when the problem and the whole environment was one of the triggers.

And with no adequate resources what will happen to my granddaughter? Or students like her?

Her experience was vastly different at a public charter school and therefore I ask that not only will this administration fund our public charter school children according to the vastly growing needs. But also that this committee helps us with this broken approval process that prevents families like mine from accessing varied high quality school options via our charters.

Before I close, I also want to address a related matter that is of great importance to me:

I come before you feeling very concerned about the proposed budget for education. In addition to my concerns related to the approval process for charter schools. The money allocated for students is not nearly enough, and our charters received a ZERO increase atop of that!

Being a supporter of the governor, I would think he would prioritize education. And while today the focus is to talk about the broken charter approval process for public charters, I want to make

sure my testimony speaks to the idea that saving money in the budget for a rainy day, while we are experiencing a deluge is preposterous!

I hope that I did walk from door to door supporting the wrong elected leaders who professed their dedication to my community and our children!

Help us, support SB1096

Respectfully,

Michelle Lindsay
Bridgeport CT.

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